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Restless Heart Performs with AFRC Band July 3rd

By Airman 1st Class Timothy Shaw
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve celebrated Independence Day with a joint concert with the chart-topping country group Restless Heart. With hits like "I'll Still Be Loving You," and "Why Does it Have to Be (Wrong or Right)," Restless Heart dominated the charts for more than a decade. Known for their distinctive five-part harmony, the group sold almost 5 million albums on the RCA label, and was the first band in history to have four No. 1 hits on the same album.

This was not the first time Restless Heart performed with the Air Force Band. The group was featured on the United Service Organizations/Air Force Reserve Command sponsored Operation Seasons Greetings tour to Europe in November 2002 and entertained troops and their families in Turkey, Spain, England, and Germany. "These guys love the military and how we do things," says Tech. Sgt. Craig Stevens, a keyboardist with the Band of the Air Force Reserve.



Restless Heart performs with the Band of the Air Force Reserve for Independence Day in Warner Robins, Ga. (Photo by Ken Hackman)

Inside this issue:

Band to Puerto Rico for diversity recruiting	2
Jazz Ensemble at Southern University	3
Band performs for Race Weekend	4
A message from the Commander	5

"What a wonderful opportunity it is to get to give something back to those responsible for so many of the freedoms we as Americans enjoy today," said Paul Greeg, bass guitar player for the group. Pianist David Innis feels the same way. "I am proud I was invited with Restless Heart to entertain our troops. It is gratifying for me to give something back to my country," he said.

More than 15,000 people attended the concert held at McConnell-Talbert Stadium in Warner Robins Ga. "This was one of the best independence day concerts we've had," Stevens said.

Preceding the concert was a performance of the Houston County Honor Band made up of select musicians from the county's four high schools. The band rehearsed for three weeks with the assistance of several members from the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

The concert ended with one of the most spectacular fireworks shows Warner Robins has ever had. "Thanks to the Generosity of local businesses, and the talent of The Band of the Air Force Reserve, we have a tremendous celebration that gets better every year," said Allen Tatman of the Warner Robins Civitan Club and sponsor of the night's festivities.

Reserve Band Promotes Diversity in Puerto Rico

By Airman 1st Class Dandrick Glenn
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

From June 11-14 2003, the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Brass Quintet was privileged to perform with the U.S. Air Force String Quartet from Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C. at the Conservatorio de Music de Puerto Rico. The concerts were presented to recruit talented musicians from the area and create more diversity into the Air Force Band Program. "The concert went very well," said Airman 1st Class Luis Diaz, an alum from the conservatory and guitarist with the Band of the Air Force Reserve. "As a result, people became more excited about the band. The performance helped strengthen ties between the Air Force and Hispanic community," Diaz said.

Recruiting efforts in Puerto Rico have take place over the years. "During a vacation to the Caribbean a few years ago I was struck by the outstanding musicianship of the players in the various groups I heard," said Maj. N. Alan Clark, commander and conductor of the band. "It didn't take long for me to realize that Puerto Rico is a hotbed of musical talent." After making several phone calls, Clark made contacts who have become great supporters of not only the Band of the Air Force Reserve, but other Air Force Bands as well.

Airman 1st Class Juan Jimenez, an alum from the conservatory and hornist with the Band of the Air Force Reserve, assisted in planning the tour to Puerto Rico. "Both groups performed very well with a high level musicianship on a very demanding program," said Jimenez. In addition to hearing a great concert, students gained valuable information about the wonderful opportunities and benefits from joining the Air Force Band Program. "After the show, more people took a liking to the band and are motivated to audition," Jimenez said.

For members of the brass quintet, the tour was a chance to work with the Air Force String Quartet from Washington D.C. "It is always good to see how other groups perform and interact with them," said Airman 1st Class Tom Salyers, a trumpet player in the quintet. "Everyone was friendly and receptive to what we played. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to return and meet more of the talented musicians from this beautiful part of the world."



Staff Sgt. Mike Andrew, Staff Sgt. John Caputo, and Airmen 1st Class Mike Pekarek, Tom Salyers, and Mike Ritcher perform as the Brass Quintet. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Anna Andrew)

Jazz Ensemble Performance a Hit at Southern University

By Airman 1st Class Dandrick Glenn
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble presented two performances at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, March 7, 2003. The band was invited to perform at the university's Career Day after associate professor and artist-in-residence Dr. Alvin Batiste heard the group during the band's tour to New Orleans in February and wanted his students to know about the opportunities Air Force Bands offer. For members of the band, it was a great opportunity to inform music students of their options for a military career. "Performing at Southern University was a good experience to open up doors and contact students about the Air Force Band Program," said Tech Sgt. Demetrice Lyles, baritone saxophonist with the band and a native of New Orleans, who has known Batiste since ninth grade. In an effort to improve diversity in the Air Force Band program, more performances and clinics will be held at historically black and other minority colleges and



Dr. Alvin Batiste, associate professor and artist-in-residence, is featured with the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble during a performance at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Norman Walker II)

universities. "More concerts and clinics like this will help the Air Force Band Program to connect with the African-American community, which will also help recruiting," Lyles said.

Commander and conductor of the band, Maj. N. Alan Clark, told the Southern students about some of the artists the band works with. "Our musicians have worked with artists such as Amy Grant, Vince Gill, and Celine Dion on various recording projects and television specials," he said. "We are fortunate to have talented young men and women serving their country in the Air Force Band Program."

The performances at Southern also featured one of the Air Force Band's finest returning to the stage with the reserve band. Master Sgt. Tracey Wright, vocalist with The United States Air Force Band's Airmen of Note and formerly with the Air Force Reserve band, wowed the university audience with her powerful performances. "Her talents made for a stellar performance," said Tech Sgt. Ken Trimmings, musical director and trumpeter for the



Quamon Fowler, center, a student at Southern University, and Master Sgt. Tracey Wright are featured with the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Jazz Ensemble. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Norman Walker II.)

Jazz Ensemble. "The audience listened attentively to every note the band played." After the show, university students participated in a jam session with members of the Jazz Ensemble and learned more about jazz improvisation, Trimmings said. Everyone was pleased with the visit, especially Batiste. "Thank you for two wonderful visits," he said. "Each were enriching and informative about careers and service in the Air Force Band Program."

Band Featured as part of Race Weekend

By Senior Airman Rebecca Collins
Band of the United States Air Force Reserve

Dixie Express and other members of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve entertained fans at the NASCAR Coca-Cola 600, an annual Winston Cup Series Race held at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord N.C., May 24-25. This year's race featured the U.S. Air Force and air power prominently in several events throughout the weekend in a celebration of the Centennial of Flight.



Dixie Express entertains race fans at the Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord N.C. (Photo by Maj. N. Alan Clark)

Dixie Express performed at the U.S. Air Force recruiting display and throughout the vending area, and provided music for a ceremony during which the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper swore in 20 new recruits. Also visiting the recruiting display over the weekend were Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray and Ricky Rudd, 23-time Winston Cup Series race winner and driver of the U.S. Air Force Number 21 Ford Taurus.

When the gates of Lowe's Motor Speedway opened May 25th, Dixie Express was there to serenade the crowd. Coincidentally, an IMAX film crew captured the group strolling through crowds near the main gate, and the footage may be used in the upcoming film

"NASCAR 3-D" to be released in 2004.

During pre-race ceremonies, Master Sgt. Scott Gunn performed "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes and Tech. Sgt. Ken Trimmings played "Taps" on trumpet, followed by a B-2 Spirit flyover. The combined effect had the crowd on their feet and cheering, long before the race began. Following the national anthem, sung by six finalists from the show "American Idol," the Air Force Thunderbirds flew a four-ship formation of F-16s overhead while lead pilot Lt. Col. Richard McSpadden announced, "Gentlemen, start your engines," from his plane's cockpit. Officials ended the race early due to inclement weather after 414 of 600 miles. Ricky Rudd drove the Air Force car to finish 33rd, with Jimmy Johnson as the victor.



Master Sgt. Scott Gunn poses with NASCAR driver Ricky Rudd before the Coca-Cola 600 in Concord, N.C. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Norman Walker II)

A message from the Commander.



Maj. N. Alan Clark
Commander and Conductor
Band of the U.S. Air Force
Reserve

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the AFRC Band! As a unit we could not be as successful without the help of Air Force Reserve Command and our sponsors wherever the band travels. This year has been extremely busy thus far. To begin, the Ceremonial Band performed in the Inauguration Ceremony for Georgia governor Sonny Perdue. The excitement did not end there. The Concert Band, Dixie Express, and the Jazz Ensemble performed at Walt Disney World and presented tours and concerts in direct support of Air Force Reserve units in New Orleans, Louisiana, Duke Field, Florida, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dixie Express also performed for

the 2003 NHL All Star Game in Fort Lauderdale Fla. Our newest subunit, Southern Aire, has received great responses during tours, protocol jobs, and other local events. Once again our Bagpipe Band appeared on the Capitol Steps during St. Patrick Day events.

This year also marks the Centennial of Flight. The band was honored to provide musical and technical support for this year's Gathering of Eagles ceremony honoring legendary aviators such as Chuck Yeager, Buddy Archer, and Colonel Eileen Collins. As members of the world's finest Air Force, we have a lot to be proud of! Airmen continue to perform with great skill and bravery in the midst of adversity. In late July the band recorded with Amy Grant, Vince Gill, BeBe and CeCe Winans for a special radio show titled "Holiday Notes From Home," which will air worldwide in December. It's our way to thank the men and women serving abroad for defending our way of life. We wish them all a safe return!

Sincerely,

N. Alan Clark

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